

# National Weather Service Sacramento Weather Spotter Checklist

# Things to remember when strong storms are in the area:

- Make sure you are in a safe place! Your safety is number one and is more important than a real time report. Do not storm chase! In lightning, stay indoors or in a car away from metal/wires. These are the safest locations from lightning, which is one of nature's biggest killers. <u>When Thunder Roars</u>, <u>Go</u> <u>Indoors!</u>
- 2. Observe from indoors when possible. If a tornado is sighted or a Tornado Warning has been issued, seek shelter in the lowest portion of the house, in an interior room away from windows.
- 3. Moving flood waters can easily pull a person or a vehicle into danger very quickly. Avoid floodwaters and never attempt to drive through water. *Turn Around Don't Drown*.
- 4. Wind can bring down large branches and power lines, which can cause injury or death. Seek shelter indoors and away from windows during strong winds.

### If you have observed severe or potential severe weather then:

- Confirm that the weather conditions are severe or near severe, and could be hazardous to human life and or property. It is <u>not</u> necessary to report lightning unless there are injuries. Consider posting photos and reports on our Facebook page at <u>www.facebook.com/NWSSacramento</u> or on Twitter at twitter.com/NWSSacramento.
- 6. Collect your thoughts and fill in the blanks on back of this sheet before calling us. Forecasters are likely to be busy and need a quick, clear, concise report.
- 7. Call our toll-free spotter line: (Number is unlisted and in your spotter package) . <u>This number is for severe reports only</u>. Call public line 916-979-3051 for forecasts.)
- 8. Give your name & spotter ID#, plus contact information for forecasters to call back quickly, if additional information is needed. If a relayed report, give that person's information as well.

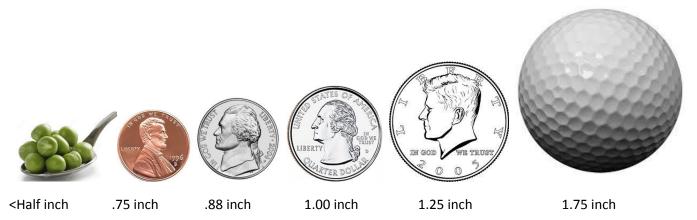
# **Examples of good versus bad reports:**

**Good** "My name is John Smith, Spotter ID SA100. I'm 1 mile north of Sacramento on Interstate 5. It's 4:00 pm. Hail up to 1" started 10 minutes ago, around 350 PM and is now covering the ground to 3" deep. This is causing cars to spin out on the Interstate."

**Bad** "I'm in Sacramento County. We had some hail and it's looking really bad out here. There's a lot of lightning going on."

The first report tells us concisely and precisely what happened, and when and where exactly it did happen. It provides useful and valuable information for us to warn the public.

#### **Common Hail Sizes (Diameter)**



<b>Call Spotter Toll-Free Number:</b> (Number is unlisted and in your spotter package) Call 916-979-3051 if you want a routine forecast. Spotter number is for severe reports only.	
My name is	, Spotter ID #,
My location is (distance and direction from a city, a well-known roadway if away from home	
Here is my report: At	am/pm I have spotted (one or more of the following):
Direct be imp Touch 1. 2. • Funnel Cloud Direct • Wall Cloud: Direct	nnel extends to the ground, or swirling debris is on the ground below the funnel) ion from your location, Distance from your locationmiles away, it is estimated to eacting location (town, crossroads, etc.)  ndown:  It is on the ground and has been forseconds/minutes  It was on the ground for seconds/minutes  d: (funnel not in contact with the ground and no swirling debris under the funnel) ion from your location, Distance from your locationmiles away  (rotating lower cloud in contact with the base of a thunderstorm ion from your location, Distance from your locationmiles away
Dama Size of Power  Hail: Size of Don't use ma Is hail If so, I	tion Strength: Measured atmph, or, Estimated at mph ge? (Yes or no)  If trees or branches downinches/feet In lines down (Yes or no) Iargest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inches, or compared to coins or other objects: Inchest hailstones (measure in inc
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. • Snow: (Fill in 1. 2. 3.	River or creek overtopping or near top of bank
	roads